

Headquarters U.S. Air Force

Integrity - Service - Excellence

Air Force Reserve Legislative Update



U.S. AIR FORCE

**2004
Pentagon IMA
Workshop**

**Mr. Wayne R.
Gracie
HQ USAF/REI
24 April 2004**



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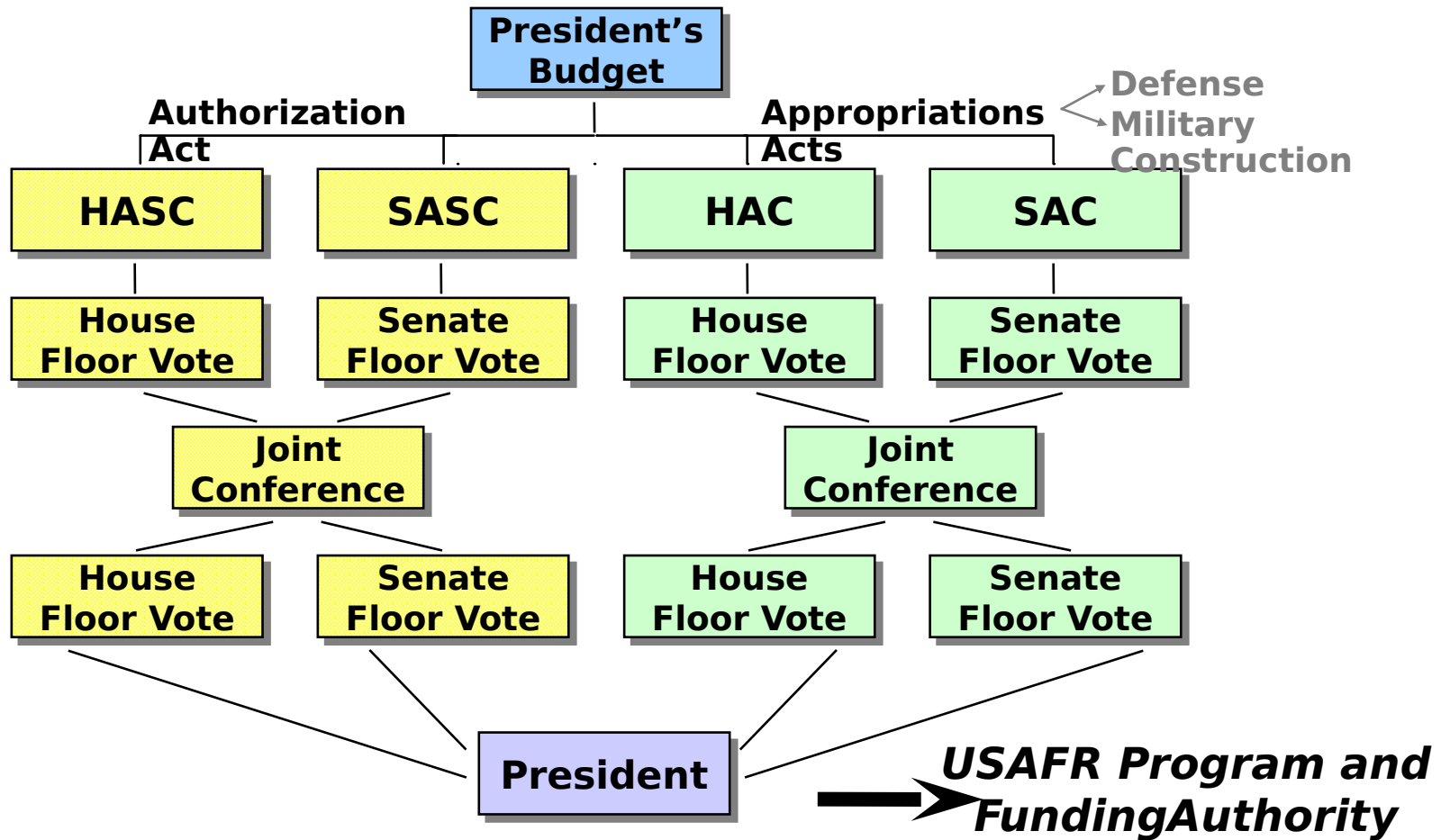
Overview

- **FY2004 National Defense Authorization Act**
- **FY2004 Defense Appropriations Act**
- **Other Actions of the 108th Congress**
- **FY2005 Legislative Goals & Issues**



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Legislative Process



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FY04 National Defense Authorization Act Public Law 108-136





Tanker Aircraft Retirement

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The Air Force plans to retire 68 KC-135 (7 to BAI) aircraft between FY2004 and FY2006 because of the continuing, rising cost of maintenance

- - 44 A/C (7 BAI) in FY2004, - 16 A/C in FY2005, - 8 A/C in FY2006

House (section 131)

- Establishes account to prepare for lease or purchase rather than retirement of 135s

Senate (section 367)

- Restricts the AF from retiring more than 12 KC-135 aircraft in FY 2004

Conference (section 134)

- SECAF shall ensure that the number of KC-135E aircraft retired in FY04, if any, does not exceed 12 aircraft
- Requires SECAF to submit an analysis of alternatives for meeting the aerial refueling requirements NLT March 1, 2004

Status: Present to Congress revised retirements of 12/41/8



Military Pay Raise

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The PB recommends a range of military pay increases from 2% up to 6.5%, targeted by rank and years of experience. Differential pay increases enhance DOD's ability to retain its most experienced personnel.

House (section 601)

- From 2% to 6.5%, most 3.7%
- Targeted raise for mid-career
- Average 4.1%

Senate (section 601)

- Across the board 3.7%
- Targeted raise for mid-career
- Average 4.15%

Conference

- Minimum 3.7 percent
- Targeted increases to mid-grade and senior NCOs and mid-grade officers
- Average 4.15 percent

Status: Effective 1 Jan 2004



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Annual Pay Adjustment Process

Current law requires an annual adjustment of basic pay for military members at 0.5% above the Employment Cost Index (ECI) through 2006 (otherwise equals the increase of GS civilian employees)

House

- **Not addressed**

Senate (section 602)

- **Requires annual adjustment to equal the ECI (after 2006) in lieu of current ECI - 0.5%**

Conference

- **Requires annual pay raises after FY2006 to be equal to ECI**
- **Maintains existing law that annual raises in FY04 to FY06 be ECI +0.5%**

Status: Effective 1 Jan 2007



Simplification of Annual Participation of Ready Reserve

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Typically, reservists are required to perform the equivalent of 38 training days in the form of 48 periods of inactive duty for training (traditionally, four periods over a weekend) and 14 days of AT.

- **At least 32 other categories of duty status.**

House (section 523)

- **Restates the annual training requirement as 38 days per year**

Senate

- **Not addressed**

Conference

- **Provision not adopted**

Status: However, Conferees support objective to simplify existing policies and make the policies more flexible and responsive to current operational requirements and the needs of individual reservists



Reimbursement for Lodging Expenses While TDY

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Payment of lodging per diem is not authorized for reservists on Temporary Duty (TDY) during periods of leave or a return to Place From Which Called (Or Ordered) To Active Duty (PLEAD)

House (section 633)

- **Authorizes reservists/retirees the lodging cost for periods of leave**

Senate

- **Not addressed**

Conference (section 635)

- **Authorizes Service Secretary to pay or reimburse a member of the armed forces assigned to temporary duty, for a period of more than 30 days, in support of a contingency operation, lodging expenses incurred by the member while in authorized leave status**

Status - Per Diem, Travel and Transportation Allowance Committee Memorandum implemented this authority effective 24 Feb 2004



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Use of Commissaries by Reservists

Current law authorizes reservists up to 24 visits to the commissary each year for RC members with at least 50 points and gray area retirees and based on participation for members without 50 points

House (section 651)

- **Auth reservists and retirees use of commissaries on same basis as active duty and dependents**

Senate (section 369)

- **Elim the annual limitation on use of commissaries by reservists with at least 50 pts and retirees**

Conference

- **Allows access to commissary on the same basis as members on active duty for selected reserve members, reserve retirees under age 60, and their dependents and eliminates initial year requirement of 50 points for reserve members**

Status - DoD Policy Memorandum signed on 24 November 2003



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Hostile Fire and Imminent Danger Pay for IDTs

Currently, reservists serving on IDT are not authorized to receive hostile fire pay and imminent danger pay (HFP/IDP)

House (section 616)

- **Authorizes reservists on IDT status to receive HFP/IDP**

Senate (section 620)

- **Authorizes reservists on IDT status to receive HFP/IDP (effective 11 Sep 01)**

Conference (section 618)

- **Authorizes reservists on IDT status to receive HFP/IDP at same rate as active duty members**
- **Retroactive to 11 Sep 2001**

Status - DFAS Implementing



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Guard & Reserve Health Care

- **Sec. 701** Medical and dental screening for Ready Reserve members alerted for mobilization
- **Sec. 702** Coverage for Ready Reserve members under TRICARE program (**expires 31 Dec 2004**)
- **Sec. 703** Earlier eligibility date for TRICARE benefits for members of reserve components (**expires 31 Dec 2004**)
- **Sec. 704** Temporary extension of transitional health care benefits (**expires 31 Dec 2004**)
- **Sec. 705** Assessment of needs of Reserves for health care benefits
- **Sec. 706** Limitation on fiscal year 2004 outlays for temporary Reserve health care programs
- **Sec. 707** TRICARE beneficiary counseling and assistance coordinators for reserve component beneficiaries
- **Sec. 708** Eligibility of Reserve officers for health care pending orders to active duty following commissioning



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FY04 Defense Appropriations Act Public Law 108-87



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932 Airlift Wing

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SEC. 8142. The Secretary of the Air Force, in consultation with the Chief of Air Force Reserve, shall study the mission of the 932nd Airlift Wing, Scott Air Force Base, Illinois, and evaluate whether it would be appropriate to substitute for that mission a mixed mission of transporting patients, passengers, and cargo that would increase the airlift capability of the Air Force while continuing the use and training of aeromedical evacuation personnel. The Secretary shall submit a report on the results of the study and evaluation to the congressional defense committees not later than January 16, 2004.

932nd Airlift Wing

The conferees recommend \$12,200,000 above the budget request for operations at the 932nd Airlift Wing, Scott Air Force Base, during fiscal year 2004. Of this amount, \$10,200,000 is to continue operations of C-9 aeromedical evacuation aircraft and \$2,000,000 is for aircrew training in support of a successor mission/airframe (such as the C-40). The conferees also recommend a general provision, section 8142, which directs the Secretary of the Air Force to study the current mission of this airlift wing, and evaluate the possibility of a mixed mission of transporting

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patients, passengers, and cargo.



53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron

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SEC. 8122. None of the funds appropriated or made available in this Act shall be used to reduce or disestablish the operation of the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron of the Air Force Reserve, if such action would reduce the WC-130 Weather Reconnaissance mission below the levels funded in this Act: *Provided*, That the Air Force shall allow the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron to perform other missions in support of national defense requirements during the non-hurricane season.

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Other Actions of the 108th Congress





Selected Retirement Bills

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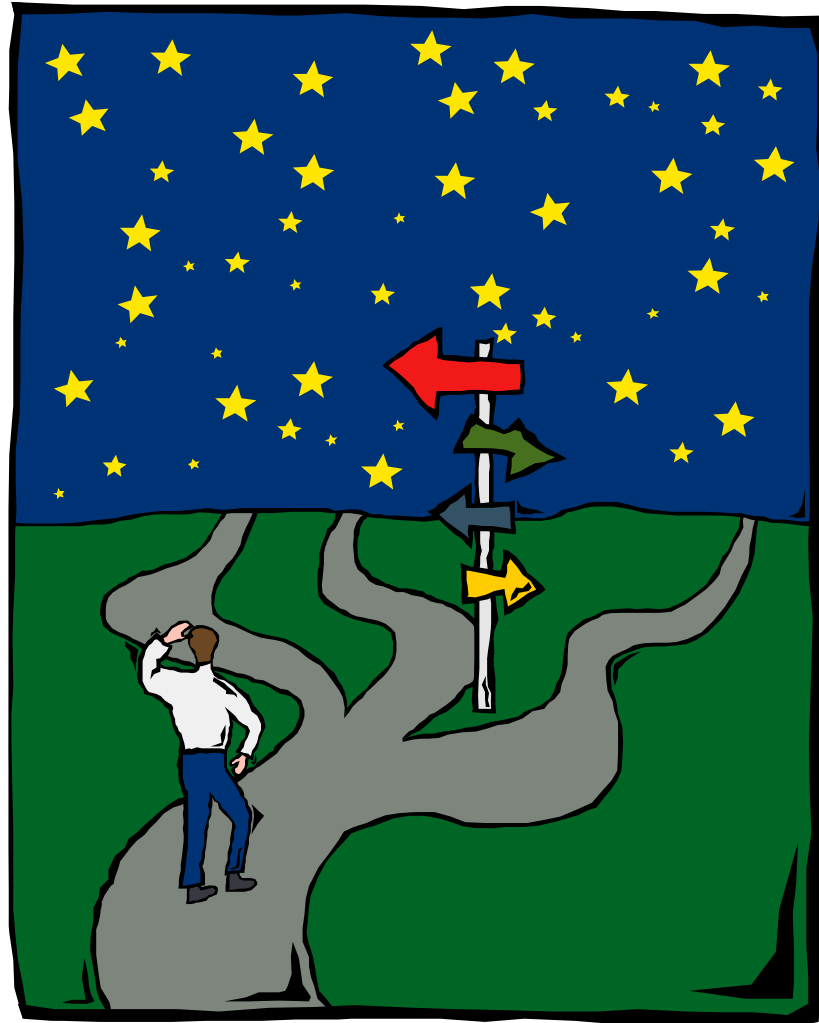
■ Reserve Retirement

Bill	Sponso r	Co-S	Description and Last Action
HR33 1	Wilson	32	Immediate annuity; Introduced 1/8/03
HR74 2	Saxton	170	Lower retirement age to 55; Introduced 2/12/03
S445	Landrieu	2	Retirement buydown; Introduced 2/25/03
S215 2	Miller	4	Percentage reduction in annuity, introduced 3/2/04



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The Way Ahead...





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Air Force Reserve FY 2005 Legislative Priorities

- **Maintain the Force**
 - Experience levels, recruiting and retention, aircraft modernization
- **Maintain the Air Force Model**
 - One tier of readiness: One team, full partner policy
- **Enhance Volunteerism**
 - Continuum of Service
- **Seek Equity in Benefits**
 - Healthcare; Housing allowance
- **Implicit Contract with Employers**
 - Tax Incentives
- **Preserve Funding Levels**



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BRAC

- **BRAC 2005 process is critical to the Air Force's ability to successfully meet future mission needs**
- All military installations evaluated equally; all recommendations will be based on approved, published selection criteria, and a force structure plan
- Congress and the Air Force recognize military value must be the primary consideration in reducing or restructuring U.S. military bases
- Other key factors –
 - Extent and timing of costs and savings
 - Impact of potential environmental remediation costs
 - Economic impact on existing communities
 - Ability of existing and potential receiving communities' infrastructure to support forces, missions, and personnel



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Rebalance Highlights

AFRC continually rebalances forces by reviewing the mix of active and reserve requirements, evolving as needed

- Implementing new mission areas
 - Space operations
 - Unmanned aerial vehicle units: Predator and Global Hawk
 - Reachback capabilities
- Realigning aircraft and unit missions
- Enhancing Fighter Associate Program (FAP)

Several career fields are stressed due to specific requirements in response to mobilization and deployment operations

- Stressed career fields
 - Installation Security
 - Law Enforcement
 - Police
 - Other fixed wing
 - Aircraft maintenance



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Summary

- **FY 2004 legislation is very favorable to reservists and their family members**
- **Several issues to be worked this year for FY 2005**
- **Legislation is a dynamic process with numerous key players**
 - **To ensure the Congress is informed of Reserve Component capabilities and accomplishments**
- **REI is available:**
 - **DSN 223-2452, 703-693-2452**
 - **www.re.hq.af.mil/rei/welcome.htm**



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Questions?



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